[MR. T. Kumara Pillai.]

period is fixed during which salt should not be used after it has been collected from the salt pans by the producers?

(*b*) If there is any such period, will the Government be pleased to say how it is that, contrary to the rule, some who have collected salt very early do not get their *kudivaram*, while others who have collected it only later get it in a shorter time?

(*c*) Are the Government aware of the fact that this policy causes loss to the salt-producers?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No definite period has been fixed during which salt should not be used after it has been collected. Salt is generally permitted to be issued only after it has become well dried in the drying ground. This period of dryage would vary according to the weather and the quality of the salt manufactured. Ordinarily about three months is the period required for dryage.

(*b*) Government have received no complaints of the sort referred to.

(*c*) In view of the answer to part (*b*), this part of the question does not call for an answer.

Salt destroyed by Floods.

6. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the estimate that three lakhs of maunds of salt stored up in the Tamaracolam factories was destroyed by the floods of Vrischikam, 1098, is accurate?

(*b*) How was the estimate of the quantity of salt destroyed by the floods in the Tamaracolam factories arrived at?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the cyclone alone was responsible for the destruction of the salt stored up in the Tamaracolam factories, consequent upon the floods there?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The estimate is fairly accurate.

(*b*) The estimate was arrived at by deducting, from the stored up and estimated quantities of salt in the factories before the 14th Vrischikam, 1098, the quantity that was left in the factories after the floods.

(*b*) The cyclone alone is reported to be responsible for the loss.

Weighment of Salt in Factories.

7. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether it is usual now to weigh and take charge of the salt collected by the producers in the salt factories, and, if not, whether there was such a practice before;

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